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PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney's Do. No. 1467-7

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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DATE OF DEPOSIT: JUNE 8, 2000

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER AND ENCLOSURES AND/OR FEE ARE BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" SERVICE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10 ON THE DATE INDICATED ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED TO: BOX PATENT APPLICATION, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON D.C. 20231.

MELISSA SMITH

(SENDER'S PRINTED NAME)

Melissa C. Smith
(SIGNATURE)

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Enclosed for filing is a patent application under 37 CFR 1.53(b) of:

Inventor [or Application Identifier]: Gordon J. Vreugdenhil, Ernst Christen,
and Martin Vlach

For: DYNAMIC ASSOCIATION OF EQUATIONS TO UNKNOWN DURING
SIMULATION OF SYSTEMS DESCRIBED BY HARDWARE DESCRIPTION
LANGUAGES

[If continuing application] This application is a ☐ continuation, ☐ divisional, ☐
continuation-in-part of prior application Serial No. _____, filed _____.

Enclosures:

- ☒ Specification (pages 1-8); claims (pages 9-13); abstract (page 14)
- ☒ 4 sheet(s) of drawings
- ☒ Declaration or Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney
 - ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
 - ☐ Incorporation by Reference--The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

06/08/00
1c841 U.S. PTO

- ☐ Deletion of Inventors (signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b))
- ☒ Power of Attorney
- ☒ Assignment with cover sheet
- ☐ Certified copy of priority document:
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO 1449
- ☐ Copies of references listed on attached Form PTO-1449
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☐ Change of Address
- ☒ Return Postcard

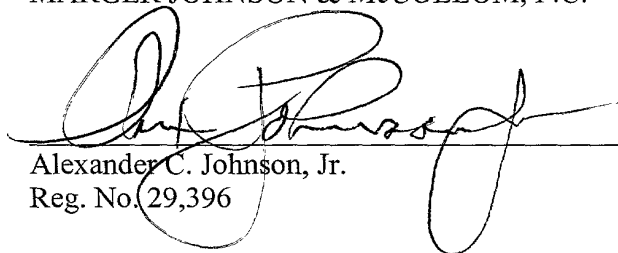
CLAIMS AS FILED				
For	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee \$690.00
Total Claims	23-20	3	x \$ 18 =	54.00
Independent Claims	4-3	1	x \$ 78 =	78.00
Multiple Dependent Claim Fee			x \$260 =	0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE				\$822.00

- ☐ Cancel in this divisional application original claims _____ of the prior application Serial No. _____ before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained for filing purposes.)
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$862.00 to cover ☒ filing fee and ☒ assignment recordal fee (\$40) is enclosed.
- ☒ Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to deposit account number 13-1703. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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**DYNAMIC ASSOCIATION OF EQUATIONS TO UNKNOWN S DURING
SIMULATION OF SYSTEMS DESCRIBED BY HARDWARE DESCRIPTION
LANGUAGES**

RELATED APPLICATION DATA

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/139,985,
filed June 18, 1999.

This application is related to co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No.
_____, entitled "Classification of the Variables In a System of Simultaneous Equations
Described By Hardware Description Languages," filed _____, which is incorporated
herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the field of computer simulation of analog and mixed
signal digital-analog physical circuits and systems, and more particularly to solving systems
of simultaneous equations including dynamically changing equations.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Simulation methods and apparatus are useful in increasing design productivity in a
wide variety of applications because design defects can be detected prior to construction of
the actual apparatus being simulated. Where the physical circuit or system includes an
analog or mixed signal analog-digital component, simulation requires solving a system of
simultaneous equations. The variables in these equations can be classified into one of several
categories, depending on how their solutions are obtained. Input variables are variables
whose values are effectively inputs to the system. Output variables are variables whose
values are outputs of the system. Intermediate and system variables are variables that
comprise the heart of the system, and whose values generally feedback on themselves.

In existing simulation systems, system variables exist in a one-to-one correspondence
with some related equation; there is exactly one equation for each system variable slot. The
relationship between a system variable and its related equation is determined prior to
simulation and does not change during the simulation. Although this relationship is

desirable, it is not always achievable. Occasionally one or more of the equations in the system of simultaneous equations are dynamic: i.e., the specific equation changes depending on specific circumstances of the system of simultaneous equations. Standard techniques for solving systems of simultaneous equations break down in the presence of simulation time changes in the relationship between equations and system variables.

Accordingly, a need exists for a technique for solving systems of simultaneous equations including conditional equations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The simulator assembles a system of simultaneous equations. Equations that do not change depending on the circumstances are permanently associated with a system variable or slot. The conditions that apply to the conditional equations are evaluated. A conditional equation is active when the conditions related to the conditional equation evaluate to true. The active conditional equations are then assigned to slots in the system of simultaneous equations, which can then be solved to determine the values of the system variables. If additional evaluations of the system of equations are required, the active conditional equations can be cleared from the slots, and a new set of active conditional equations selected.

The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become more readily apparent from the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment, which proceeds with reference to the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a flowchart of a method according to the invention for solving a system of simultaneous equations representing a physical circuit or system including a conditional equation.

FIG. 2 is a flowchart of a method for selecting active conditional equations in the method of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a flowchart of a method for verifying that the system of simultaneous equations of FIG. 1 including active conditional equations is solvable.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a computer system implementing the method and apparatus of this invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Software systems that perform hardware simulation can do so using analog and discrete descriptions of the hardware behavior. Analog descriptions of the behavior are described as a set of simultaneous equations that need to be solved by a simultaneous equation solution algorithm in order to determine how the simulated system will behave. The simultaneous equations are expressed in terms of a certain number of unknowns and to find a solution there must be exactly one equation for each of the unknowns. The term "system variable" describes the set of unknowns within the set of equations. Simulation systems may decrease the size of the system of equations and the number of system variables by using techniques such as those described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. _____, entitled "Classification of the Variables In a System of Simultaneous Equations Described By Hardware Description Languages," filed _____.

In analog designs, it is advantageous to be able to have equations that change during simulation in order to describe regions of operation for some device, as shown by a simple, illustrative example. Table 1 describes the behavior of a MOS transistor using conditions that describe the three regions of operation for the transistor. The example assumes:

- 1) there are electrical connections "drain," "source," and "gate";
- 2) v_{gs} is the voltage from gate to source;
- 3) v_{ds} is the voltage from drain to source;
- 4) i_{ds} is the current through drain to source;
- 5) g_m is the transconductance and v_{th} is the voltage threshold of the transistor.

Table 1

```
if vgs-vth <= 0.0
    "ids == 0.0" is the active equation
else if vgs-vth <= vds
    "ids == 0.5*gm*(vgs-vth)**2" is the active equation
else
    "ids == gm*((vgs-vth)-0.5*vds)*vds" is the active equation
end
```

This system requires that the equations change during simulation as the model changes between the regions. This invention provides an efficient method for changing between the equations during simulation.

In a system of simultaneous equations, each system variable is said to have a “slot” and there is some set of equations that can be used to fill the slot in order to associate the system variable with an equation for solving the system of equations. The invention is a system and method that permits a simulation-time (i.e., dynamic) association between a set of conditional equations and a set of system variable slots when the number of conditional equations is at least as large as the number of system variable slots. In this approach, the equation that fills the slot is not predetermined prior to simulation. Slots can be filled with different equations at different analog solution iterations during the simulation and an equation can populate different slots at different analog solution iterations during the simulation. (An *analog solution iteration* is defined to occur when the analog solver requires that values need to be determined for the expressions forming the equations in the system.) This system and method is critical for high performance simulation of systems in which the set of active equations in the simultaneous system can change during the simulation. The language described in IEEE Standard 1076.1, subsequently referred to as VHDL-AMS, is a hardware description language used for analog and digital simulation that permits such changes in the set of equations during simulation time and will be used as the context for describing the invention. The invention is not limited, however, to use in VHDL-AMS.

The dynamic association can be carried out as follows, using VHDL-AMS modeling terminology for illustrative purposes, in a simulator identified as VeriasHDL™.

VHDL-AMS defines the set of “characteristic expressions” that define the set of simultaneous equations the simulator must solve at a given analog solution iteration. (The term *characteristic expression* is defined in VHDL-AMS, and is subsumed by the more general term “conditional equation,” also used in this document.) VHDL-AMS also defines “simultaneous if” and “simultaneous case” statements that permit the set of characteristic expressions to change between analog solution iterations based on some specified condition. The conditions may involve values that change during simulation, which means that the system of simultaneous equations changes while the simulation is progressing. In order to deal with this problem, VeriasHDL defines a dynamic association of equations to system variables. Conditions can nest; a single equation or block of equations can have multiple conditions controlling when the equation or block of equations become active; some of the conditions can also govern other equations and others not. The basic approach is as follows:

Assume that prior to simulation the system partitions the set of system variables (equation unknowns) into two subsets – unknowns with fixed associations to single

equations, and unknowns whose equation is selected dynamically from some set of potential conditional equations. One trivial choice is to have all system variables and equations participate in dynamic associations. In non-trivial cases, the analysis only needs to consider equations guarded by conditions whose values change during the simulation and the subset of system variables that are not associated with any of the unguarded equations, but the selection of the set does not otherwise affect the applicability of dynamic association.

Assume that the partitioning results in a set of system variables $Q_1 \dots Q_m$ and a set of conditional characteristic expressions $e_1, e_2, \dots e_n$ existing inside simultaneous if and simultaneous case statements that will participate in the dynamic associations.

For each i from 1 to n , introduce a corresponding temporary variable, t_i , related to e_i and an assignment of the characteristic expression e_i to the temporary variable t_i . For each j from 1 to m , generate a new unconditional association between the slot for Q_j and a variable q'_j where q'_j is a new temporary variable that is otherwise undefined. Each q'_j is called the *dynamic slot target variable* for the associated Q_j .

During simulation, at a particular analog solution iteration, the active characteristic expressions are determined by evaluating the simultaneous if and case conditions. When a particular expression is determined to be active, say e_k , that expression is evaluated and a value is determined for the temporary variable t_k . The value of t_k is assigned to some q'_j , where j denotes some q' that has not yet been assigned a value in the current analog solution iteration. A straightforward method for making this selection is to start j at 1 and to increment j after each dynamic association. This procedure effectively creates a new association between the slot for Q_j and the characteristic expression e_k and is then used for the current analog solution iteration.

Table 2 depicts an example situation in which e_k , e_{k+3} , and e_{k+8} are active and are respectively associated with Q_j , Q_{j+1} , Q_{j+2} . The symbol “ \leftrightarrow ” indicates that the given dynamic slot target variable is associated with the slot for the indicated system variable.

Table 2			
...		----- t_k	$:= e_k$
Q_j	$\leftrightarrow q'_j$	<-----
Q_{j+1}	$\leftrightarrow q'_{j+1}$	<-----	$t_{k+3} := e_{k+3}$
Q_{j+2}	$\leftrightarrow q'_{j+2}$	<-----
...		----- t_{k+8}	$:= e_{k+8}$
		

At this point, preliminary values for the q'_j have been determined (through the values for the t_k). The preliminary values for each q'_j and the fixed system variables can then be substituted into the simultaneous equations to see if the system of simultaneous equations is solved. If the values for the q'_j and the system variables do not solve the system of simultaneous equations, the direction toward a solution is indicated, and the values for the q'_j and the system variables can be perturbed until a solution for the system of simultaneous equations is reached. How the system of simultaneous equations is solved is known in the art, and will not be further described here.

The use of temporaries, $t_1 \dots t_n$ is an implementation convenience. The temporaries $t_1 \dots t_n$ can be replaced by a single temporary or register to move the value computed for a characteristic expression directly into the selected q' .

During the associations, if all q' variables have been assigned a value and an additional characteristic expression e_k becomes active, then an error has occurred in the model since there are then too many equations for the number of unknowns. Similarly, after all active characteristic expressions have been associated, if there are additional q' variables that have not been associated, an error has occurred in the model since there are too many unknowns for the number of equations.

In an alternative embodiment, the evaluated equation indices can be checked to determine if any of the indices had been associated with system variable slots during the previous analog solution iteration. If any active equations were associated previously with system variable slots, associating the active equations with the same system variable slot as in the previous iteration would improve convergence properties of the analog solution algorithms due to having fewer trajectory changes in the system variables. Any new equations can be associated with the remaining unassociated system variables in the straightforward sequential manner.

FIG. 1 shows a flowchart of the method according to the invention for solving a system of simultaneous equations representing a physical circuit or system including a conditional equation. In FIG. 1, at step 105, the physical circuit or system is represented as a system of simultaneous equations. As discussed above, the system of simultaneous equations can be reduced to only those equations associated with system variables. The system of simultaneous equations includes at least one slot for an equation with an associated condition (i.e. a conditional equation). At step 110, the conditions associated with the conditional equations are evaluated, and the active conditional equations (ACE) are determined. At step 115, the active conditional equations are associated with slots in the system of simultaneous equations. This involves assigning the conditional equation to a dynamic slot target variable (DSTV). At step 120, the system of simultaneous equations is solved to determine the values of the system variables. At decision point 125, the method checks to see if there are any additional analog solution iterations needed for the simulation. If there are additional analog solution iterations needed for the simulation, the method returns to step 110, as shown by line 130. Otherwise, at step 135, the values for the system variables are used to validate the physical circuit or system.

FIG. 2 shows a flowchart of a method for selecting active conditional equations in the method of FIG. 1. FIG. 2 shows more detail of steps 110-120 of FIG. 1. At step 205, the conditions that apply to the conditional equations are evaluated to determine which of the conditional equations are active. At step 210, the active conditional equations are selected. At step 215, each conditional equation is associated with the slot for a system variable. Finally, at step 220, solving the system of simultaneous equations determines values for the system variables.

FIG. 3 shows a flowchart of a method for verifying that the system of simultaneous equations of FIG. 1 including active conditional equations is solvable. At step 305, the system of simultaneous equations is checked to make sure that no dynamic slot target variable is assigned the value of more than one active conditional equation. At step 310, the system of simultaneous equations is checked to make sure that each active conditional equation is assigned to at most one dynamic slot target variable. Finally, at step 315, the system of simultaneous equations is checked to make sure that each dynamic slot target variable is assigned the value of an active conditional equation. If any of the checks 305-315 fail, then at step 320 an error condition is reported.

FIG. 4 shows a computer system implementing the method and apparatus of this invention. In FIG. 4, computer system 405 includes a computer 410, a monitor 415, a keyboard 420, and a mouse 425. Other components may be part of the computer system 405, even though not shown in FIG. 4. For example, computer system 405 can include other input/output devices, such as a plotting device. Similarly, devices such as monitor 415, keyboard 420, and mouse 425 can be missing from the computer system 405, provided that some input and output devices exist. Computer system 405 also includes simulator 430. Simulator 430 performs the simulation of analog and mixed signal digital-analog physical circuits and systems. Simulator 430 includes translation software 435, selection means 440, assignment means 445, and solving means 450. Translation software 435 translates a hardware description language description of a physical circuit or system, such as HDL file 455, into the systems of equations. Selection means 440 is responsible for determining which conditional equations describing the physical circuit or system are active. Assignment means 445 is responsible for assigning the value of an active conditional equations to a dynamic slot target variable in the system of simultaneous equations. Finally, solving means 450 is responsible for solving the system of simultaneous equations to determine values for system variable associated with the active conditional equations.

Having described and illustrated the principles of the invention in a preferred embodiment thereof, it should be apparent that the invention can be modified in arrangement and detail without departing from such principles. We claim all modifications and variations coming within the spirit and scope of the following claims.

We claim:

1. In a computer simulation of a physical circuit or system including an analog or mixed signal digital-analog component, the physical circuit or system described in a hardware description language and characterized by a system of simultaneous equations, the method comprising:

representing the physical circuit or system as a system of simultaneous equations, the system of simultaneous equations including a slot for an active conditional equation and a dynamic slot target variable associated with the slot in the system of simultaneous equations;

selecting an active conditional equation at a current analog solution iteration;

assigning a value for the active conditional equation to a dynamic slot target variable at the current analog solution iteration, thereby associating the conditional equation with a slot in the system of simultaneous equations;

solving the system of simultaneous equations; and

using the solution to the system of simultaneous equations to validate the physical circuit or system.

2. A method for solving a system of simultaneous equations including one or more conditional equations, the system of simultaneous equations describing a physical circuit or system in a hardware description language, the circuit including an analog component, the method comprising:

representing the physical circuit or system as a system of simultaneous equations, the system of simultaneous equations including one or more slots for active conditional equations selected from a set of possible characteristic expressions and one or more dynamic slot target variables associated with the slots in the system of simultaneous equations;

selecting a set of active conditional equations at a current analog solution iteration;

assigning a value for each active conditional equation in the set of active conditional equations to a dynamic slot target variable at the current analog solution iteration, thereby associating the active conditional equation with a slot in the system of simultaneous equations; and

solving the system of simultaneous equations at the current analog solution iteration.

3. A method according to claim 2, the method further comprising:

selecting a second set of active conditional equations at a second current analog solution iteration;

assigning a value for each active conditional equation in the second set of active conditional equations to a dynamic slot target variable at the second current analog solution iteration, thereby associating the active conditional equation with a slot in the system of simultaneous equations; and

solving the system of simultaneous equations at the second current analog solution iteration.

10 4. A method according to claim 2, wherein assigning a value for each active conditional equation includes relating a system variable to each active conditional equation for the current analog solution iteration.

15 5. A method according to claim 4, wherein solving the system of simultaneous equations includes determining a value for each system variable related to an active conditional equation.

20 6. A method according to claim 2, wherein at most one conditional equation is assigned to each dynamic slot target variable at the current analog solution iteration.

25 7. A method according to claim 2, wherein each conditional equation is assigned to at most one dynamic slot target variable at the current analog solution iteration.

30 8. A method according to claim 2, wherein the number of active conditional equations is required to be equal to the number of dynamic slot target variables.

 9. A method according to claim 8, the method further comprising reporting a simulation failure if the number of active conditional equations differs from the number of dynamic slot target variables while attempting to solve the system of simultaneous equations.

 10. A method according to claim 2, wherein selecting an active conditional equation includes evaluating a condition associated with the active conditional equation.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein evaluating a condition occurs before selecting the active conditional equation.

12. A computer-readable medium containing a program implementing a method for solving a system of simultaneous equations including one or more conditional equations,
5 the system of simultaneous equations describing a physical circuit or system in a hardware description language, the circuit including an analog component, the program comprising:

representation software to represent the physical circuit or system as a system of simultaneous equations, the system of simultaneous equations including one or more slots for conditional equations selected from a set of possible conditional equations and one or more
10 dynamic slot target variables associated with the slots in the system of simultaneous equations;

selection software to select a set of active conditional equations at a current analog solution iteration;

assignment software to assign a value for each active conditional equation in the set of
15 active conditional equations to a dynamic slot target variable at the current analog solution iteration, thereby associating the active conditional equation with a slot in the system of simultaneous equations; and

solution software to solve the system of simultaneous equations at the current analog solution iteration.

13. A computer-readable medium containing a program according to claim 12, the program further comprising:

second selection software to select a second set of active conditional equations at a second current analog solution iteration;

25 second assignment software to assign a value for each active conditional equation in the second set of active conditional equations to a dynamic slot target variable at the second current analog solution iteration, thereby associating the active conditional equation with a slot in the system of simultaneous equations; and

30 second solution software to solve the system of simultaneous equations at the second current analog solution iteration.

14. A computer-readable medium containing a program according to claim 12, wherein the assignment software includes relation software to relate a system variable to each active conditional equation for the current analog solution iteration.

5 15. A computer-readable medium containing a program according to claim 14, wherein the solution software includes determination software to determine a value for each system variable related to an active conditional equation.

10 16. A computer-readable medium containing a program according to claim 12, wherein at most one conditional equation is assigned to each dynamic slot target variable at the current analog solution iteration.

15 17. A computer-readable medium containing a program according to claim 12, wherein each conditional equation is assigned to at most one dynamic slot target variable at the current analog solution iteration.

20 18. A computer-readable medium containing a program according to claim 12, wherein the number of the number of active conditional equations is required to be equal to the number of dynamic slot target variables.

25 19. A computer-readable medium containing a program according to claim 18, the program further comprising reporting software to report a simulation failure if the number of active conditional equations differs from the number of dynamic slot target variables while attempting to solve the system of simultaneous equations.

20. A computer-readable medium containing a program according to claim 12, wherein the selection software includes evaluation software to evaluate a condition associated with the active conditional equation.

30 21. A computer-readable medium containing a program according to claim 20, wherein the evaluation software is executed before the selection software.

22. An apparatus for simulating a circuit, solving a system of simultaneous equations including a conditional equation, the system of simultaneous equations describing a physical circuit or system in a hardware description language, the circuit including an analog component, the apparatus comprising:

- 5 a computer for simulating the physical circuit or system;
- a hardware description language description of the physical circuit or system stored on a computer-readable medium;
- translation software to translate the hardware description language description into a system of simultaneous equations, the system of simultaneous equations including one or
- 10 more slots for conditional equations selected from a set of possible conditional equations;
- means for selecting a set of active conditional equations;
- means for assigning a value for each active conditional equation in the set of active conditional equations to a dynamic slot target variable at the current analog solution iteration, thereby associating the active conditional equation with a slot in the system of simultaneous
- 15 equations; and
- means for solving the system of simultaneous equations at the current analog solution iteration.

23. An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the means for selecting an active

20 conditional equation includes means for testing a condition associated with the active conditional equation.

DYNAMIC ASSOCIATION OF EQUATIONS TO UNKNOWN S DURING SIMULATION OF SYSTEMS DESCRIBED BY HARDWARE DESCRIPTION LANGUAGES

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

In simulating a physical circuit or system including analog and mixed signal digital-analog components, a computer models the physical circuit or system as a system of simultaneous equations. Conditional equations with associated conditions that can be true or false at different analog solution iterations result in a system of simultaneous equations that can change during the simulation. Rather than reformulating the system of simultaneous equations at each analog solution iteration, the system of simultaneous equations includes slots that are associated with conditional equations as the conditional equations become active. At a given point during the simulation, the conditions associated with the conditional equations are evaluated to determine which conditional equations are active. The values of the active conditional equations are placed in the slots in the system of simultaneous equations. System variables are associated with active conditional equations. The system of simultaneous equations is then solved to determine the values of the system variables. If there are additional analog solution iterations, the active conditional equations can change, and different conditional equations can be associated with each of the slots in the system of simultaneous equations. Once the simulation is complete, the results of the simulation (i.e., the values of the variables in the simulation model) can be used to analyze the behavior of the physical circuit or system.

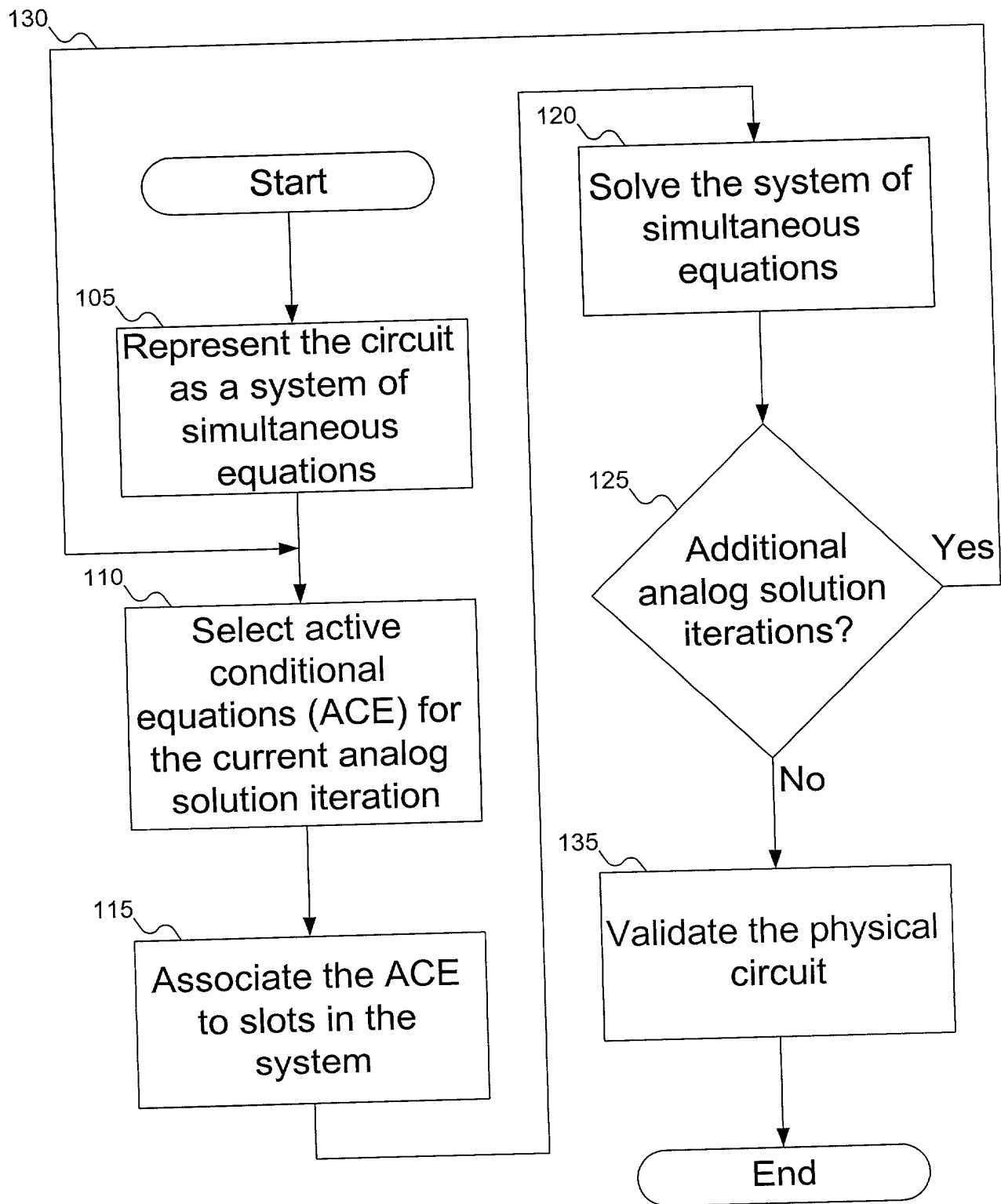


FIG. 1

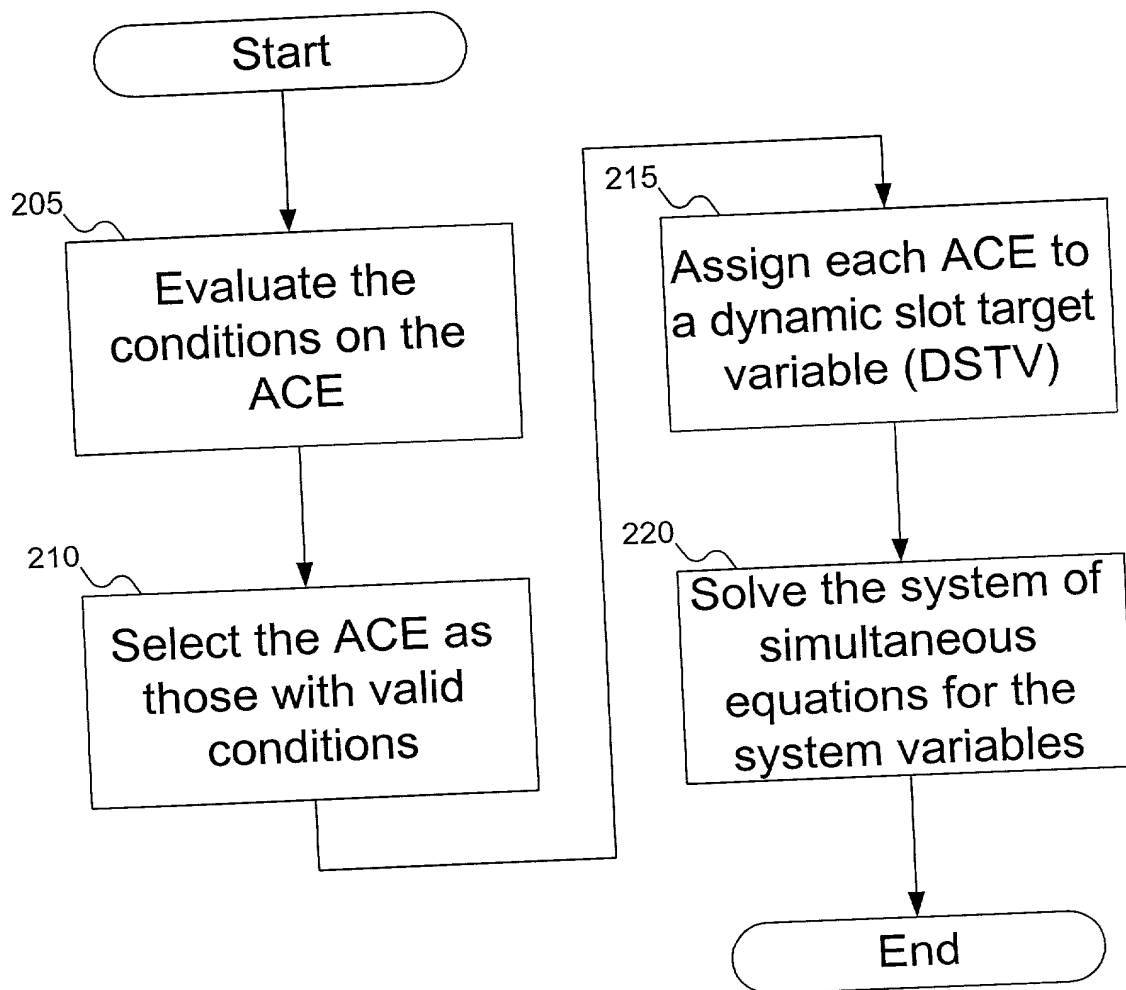


FIG. 2

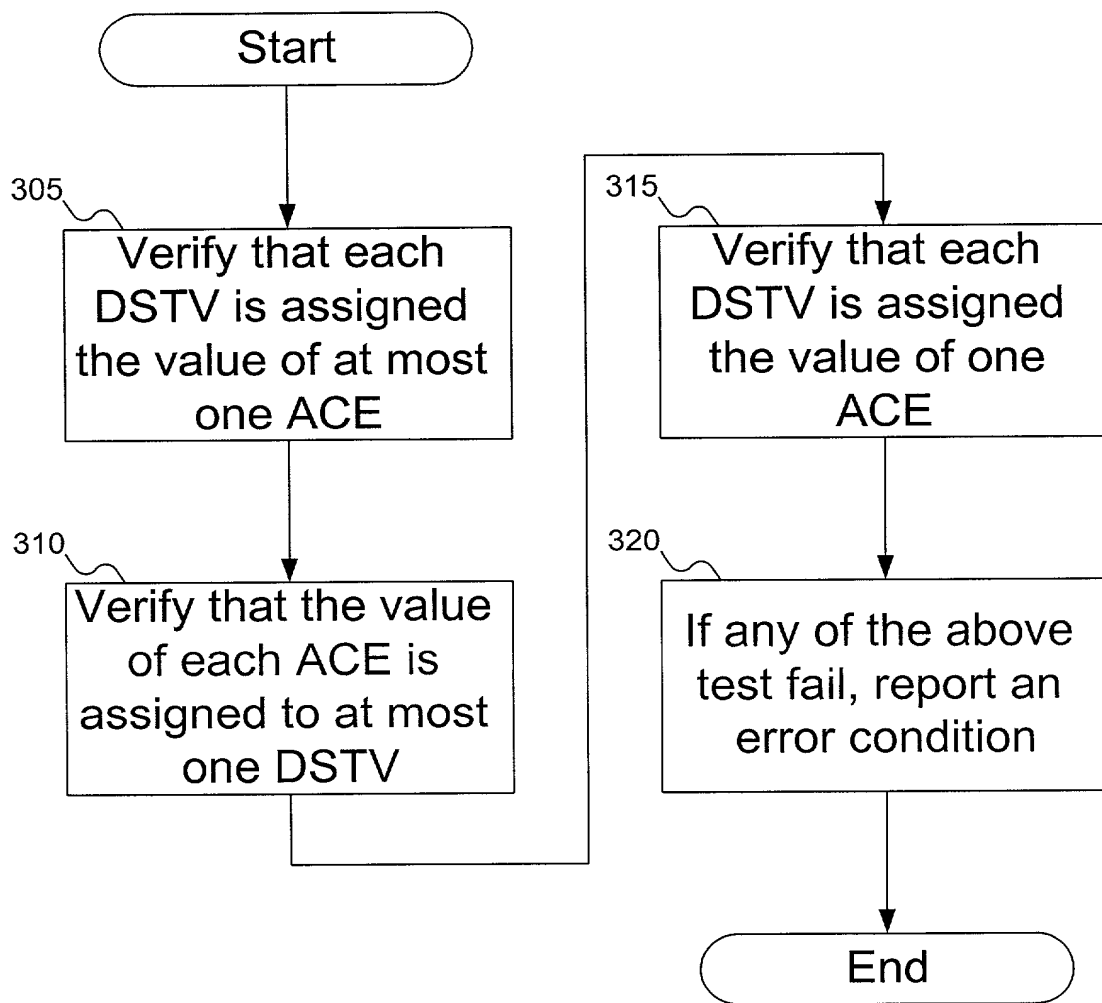


FIG. 3

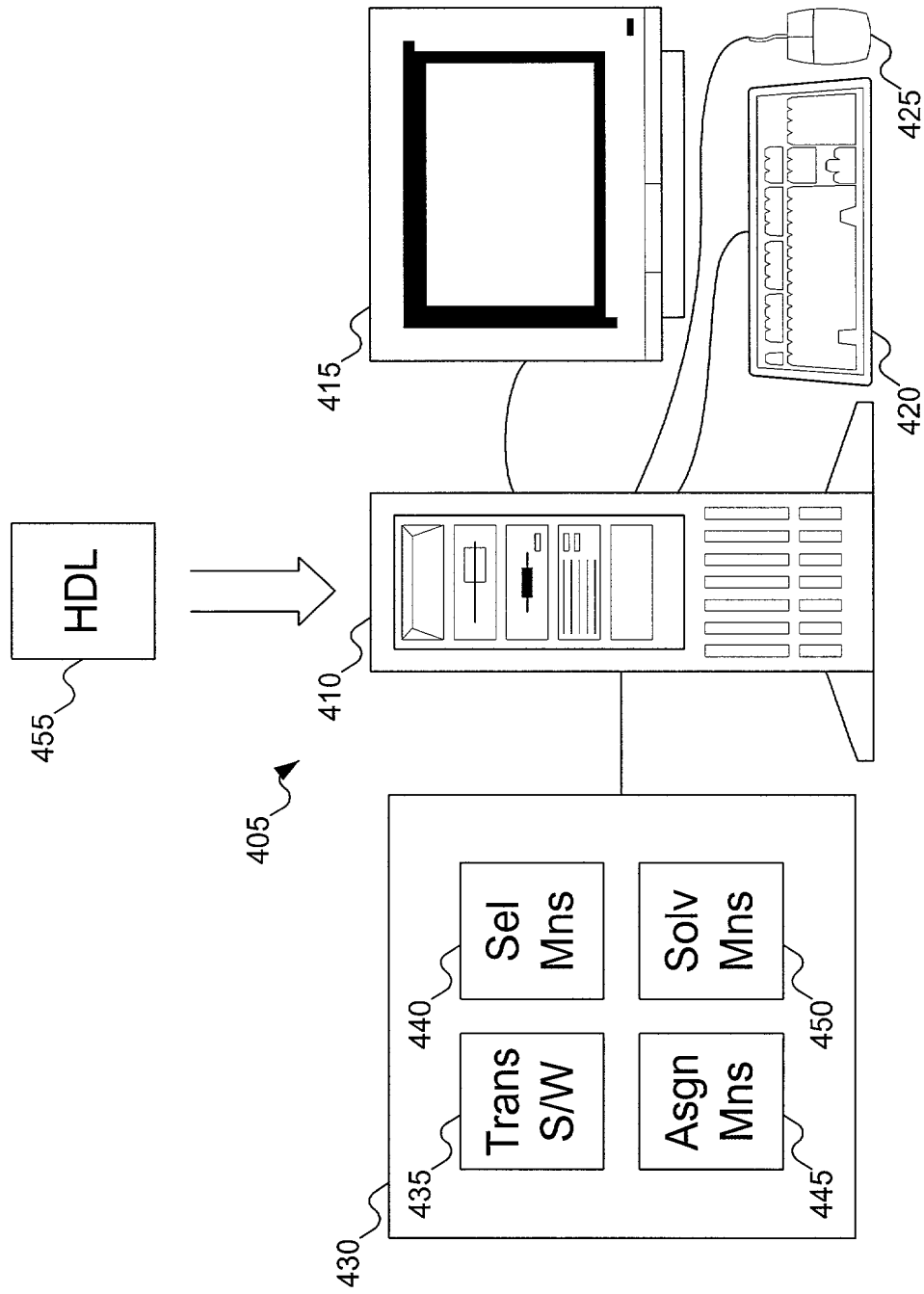


FIG. 4

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **DYNAMIC ASSOCIATION OF EQUATIONS TO UNKNOWN DURING SIMULATION OF SYSTEMS DESCRIBED BY HARDWARE DESCRIPTION LANGUAGES**, the specification of which:

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as
Application Serial No. _____

☐ and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

☐ with amendments through _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed: NONE

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 119(e) of any United States provisional application listed below:

Provisional Application No.

Filing Date

60/139,985

June 18, 1999

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 120 of any United States application(s), or Sec. 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 112. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application: NONE

(App. Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status -patented, pending, etc.)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Inventor's signature:

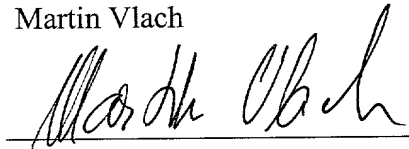
Ernst Christen

06/01/2000
(Date)

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Citizenship: Switzerland
Post Office address: 14244 SW Yearling Way
Beaverton, Oregon 97008

Full name of third co-inventor: Martin Vlach

Inventor's signature:



June 1/00
(Date)

Residence: Portland, Oregon
Citizenship: Canada
Post Office address: 6112 SW Jan Tree Court
Portland, Oregon 97219

PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney's Do. No. 1467-14

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Gordon J. Vreugdenhil, Ernst Christen and Martin Vlach

Serial No.

Filed:

For: DYNAMIC ASSOCIATION OF EQUATIONS TO UNKNOWNNS DURING
SIMULATION OF SYSTEMS DESCRIBED BY HARDWARE DESCRIPTION
LANGUAGES

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

POWER OF ATTORNEY BY ASSIGNEE OF ENTIRE INTEREST
AND REVOCATION OF PRIOR POWERS

I, Charles St. Clair, Corporate Secretary, of AVANT! CORPORATION, a California corporation, having a place of business at 46871 Bayside Parkway, Fremont, California 94538, assignee of the entire right, title and interest of the above-described U.S. patent application, by the assignment submitted under separate cover for recordal (copy enclosed), represent that I am empowered to sign on behalf of assignee.

As assignee of the above identified application, all powers of attorney previously given are hereby revoked and the following attorneys and/or patent agents are hereby appointed to prosecute and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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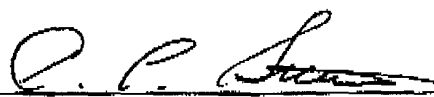
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